"A City of Excellence"

SEAT PLEASANT NEWS

SEPTEMBER EDITION

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City of Seat Pleasant

Mayor

Eugene W. Grant

Council President

Latasha Gatling (At Large Councilmember)

Ward I Councilmember Elenora Simms

Ward II Councilmember
Aretha Stephenson

Ward III Councilmember
Reveral Yeargin

Ward IV Councilmember
Gerald Raynor

Ward V Councilmember

Darrell Hardy

AT Large Council member Kelly Porter

Acting City Administrator Treasurer

Robert L. Ashton

Chief of PoliceSamuel Prue

Director of Public WorksJohnny Thompson

City Clerk

Dashaun Lanham

CITY COUNCIL HOSTS EVENTS IN THE PARK

During the month of August, the City Council hosted four events in Goodwin Park for residents to enjoy. The City Council selected a committee to oversee the planning and execution of the events. Members of the committee were Council President Latasha Gatling, Councilman Kelly Porter, Council member Aretha Shephenson and Darlinda Sanders of the Community Services Department.



The first event was a Council Cookout that was held for citizens on July 25 to meet and greet Council members and other elected officials. Attendees were treated to food prepared hot off the grill along with other refreshments. Unfortunately, the event was cut short by a severe thunderstorm.

On Friday August 7th, a movie night was scheduled featuring the popular



animated feature "The Princess and the Frog" as well "The Spy Next Door" starring Jackie Chan. The experience was complete with popcorn and candy. The jazz event showcasing local talent scheduled for August 22nd was completely rained out and had to be cancelled. Due to the cancellation of that event, it was combined with the Gospel Night on Sunday, August 29th beginning at 3 p.m. Several groups performed

much to the delight of residents and visitors.

Performers included Seat Pleasant's own Elders James Flowers, Jr. and Family of Shining Star Freewill Baptist Church, the Kings of Harmony, Michael White and True Praise, The Funk vs. Soul Project, Kendall King, Faces of God, Jimmy Russell and Because of Christ, Fierce (a talented employee of the City of Seat Pleasant), Tre Thomas, and Reverend Christopher Page and the Dreamkeepers Ensemble.



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GREETINGS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT



Greetings!

As we leave the summer behind and begin the autumn season, I hope that this message finds you in warm spirits. I ask that you continue to remain vigilant of children, as school is open.

As you know the City Council elects a new Council President in September for the next year. It has been a pleasure to serve as Council President this past year. Nevertheless, I look forward to serving you in the upcoming year, as I have been reelected. Please be sure to visit the City website at www.seatpleasantmd.gov to check for news, events, etc., regarding the city, county, and the state.

The City Council would like to hear from you; please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions, comments, or concerns please contact City Hall or your Councilmember.

Remember to be safe and watch out for children as school is back in session. We look forward to seeing each of you at our Public Meeting held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at City Hall. Again, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us at 301-336-2600.

Sincerely,

LaTasha C. Gatling
Council President
City of Seat Pleasant
"A City of Excellence"

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK



There was no legislation passed during the month of August as the Council was in recess at that time.

(COUNCILMAN PORTER APPOINTED TO MARYLAND MUNICIPAL LEAGUE'S COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

Councilman Kellly Porter has once again been appointed to the Maryland Municipal League's Communications Committee. He has served on the Committee for the past four years. The Communications Committee outlines strategies to promote the image of the league to and on behalf of its members to increase awareness of municipal government to both internal and external audiences. The Committee works on and presents various projects to the Maryland Municipal League directors for their approval and implementation. These projects include things such as "If I Were Mayor", Maryland Governmental Week, Banner City Program and Geo Cache Trail, just to name a few. The Committee meets monthly to organize these and other projects that may be appropriate for the enhancement of member municipalities. Councilman Porter is also on track to re-



Councilman Kelly Porter

ceive a Diamond Certificate from the National League of Cities for his participation in their Leadership Training Institute. There are five levels of achievement a local leader can attain if she or he continues with training. The Diamond Level was implemented in 2007 to honor the highest level of achievement within the program.

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(COUNCIL MEMBERS SIMMS AND STEPHENSON ELECTED TO POSTIONS WITH THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION



Council member Aretha Stephenson 3rd from the left second row and Councilmember Elenora Simms far left on the first row.

Council member Stephenson was recently elected to the board of the Prince George's County Municipal Association and Council member Elenora Simms was elected as the Treasurer. The Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA) is one of eleven chapters of the Maryland Municipal League. Some of the activities of the organization are providing training opportunities for newly elected officials, identifying issues of concern to member municipalities and formulating county and/or state legislation to address those issues. The organization also interacts with County and State legislators and monitors education issues in Prince George's County. They provide scholarships to municipal residents as well. We congratulate Council members Simms and Stephenson on their accomplishment.



COUNCILWOMAN SIMMS

WARD I MEETING
SATURAY, OCTOBER 2, 2010
WITH COUNCIL MEMBER
ELENORA SIMMS
IN THE
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
6301 ADDISON ROAD
SEAT PLEASANT, MARYLAND



REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

FOOD FOR THOUGHT "WHAT ARE YOU DOING" (Part I)

2:00 P.M.

A Poem by Councilman Yeargin

There are billions of questions that are asked each day and there are billions of answers to them Are you the questioner or are you the person who is answering all the questions?

When they say jump do you jump as high as you can or do you simply do what they ask without question?

I see people doing things and going places, and I just wanted to know what are you doing with your life?

Do you view yourself as being valuable or do you see yourself as being dispensable?

Do you see doors opening for you or do you wish that life could be a little easier?

Are you taking advantage of the opportunities that are coming your way or are you just throwing them away?

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ANNUITIES VS CD'S (Part I)

by Robert Ashton



The purpose of this article is to share with you some helpful hints regarding the understanding of annuities as a retirement investment vehicle.

Benefits of Annuities

Due to the fact that we simply cannot rely these days on Social Security or pensions, annuities might prove to be a smart and effective way to give one a life-time income.

Benefits to annuities are numerous, providing individual the opportunity to put away money so that their cash outlives them and not the other way around. Annuities offer an array of benefits, among them:

- Ability to defer taxes
- Triple compounding experience
- Guaranteed income stream
- Perfect for estate planning
- Variety of payment options

First, annuities unlike other tax-deferred retirement accounts such as IRAs and 401(k) s give owners the ability to defer taxes on the growth of assets within the contract. Individuals can put away additional money for retirement, something that is especially attractive for investors who are nearest to retirement and have some catching up to do.

Earnings credited to an annuity are not taxed to the annuitant as income until the time of withdrawal. When you combine tax deferment, coupled with the benefit of compounding, an annuity ends up outperforming the majority of other taxable investments, even complementing other retirement vehicles like Social Security and pension plans.

Due to the tax deferment, annuities provide a "triple compounding" experience that provides the annuitant with more growth on principal, growth on that growth, along with growth on the monies that were not taken out to cover taxes. The end result is a higher effective yield for the contract holder.

Along with deferring taxes and compounding the earnings for the accumulation years, annuitants are also able to manage the timing of taxes that become due since monies are removed from the annuity. In managing the timing of annuity distribution, he or she can control the amount and rate of taxation on their Social Security income.

When collecting Social Security, a calculation takes in a formula for all income, minus exclusion for taxfree bonds and other sources of income that may not be included in the regular calculation of taxable income. If under this formula the annual income surpasses a certain threshold amount, then up to 85 percent of income from Social Security may be taxed. With that in mind, controlling the annuity income could play a key part in the tax planning aspect of retirement.

Another benefit is that annuities can offer the holder a guaranteed income stream for the remainder of their life, depending on which settlement option they have chosen.

Annuities also prove great vehicles for estate planning, given proceeds from them move straight to your beneficiaries minus the delay, cost and publicity of probate in the majority of states.

(This article will be continued in the next issue)

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A WORD FROM THE SEAT PLEASANT POLICE DPEARTMENT

IMPORTANT POLICE DEPARTMENT NUMBERS

Have you often found yourself calling 911 simply because you did not know the appropriate number to call? If this sounds like you....

Take a breath.... We're here to help. Citizen's requiring police services should call 911 in an emergency but to report suspicious activity call the Prince George's County Non-Emergency Number at 301-333-4000. Make sure to call during the time the activity is since calling after the fact or calling the wrong number will delay action. Calling the non-emergency number will also provide a record of calls for service which is helpful in court cases. Remember, 911 is meant for emergencies only, such as life threatening issues, fire and threats to your personal safety. Citizens who wish to report a crime should do so. Keep in mind that you can remain anonymous if you prefer. It is not required that you give your name.

FROM THE OFFICE OF CODE ENFORCEMENT

There have been complaints regarding trash being strewn about due to the manner in which the trash was placed curbside. The following is an excerpt from the City Charter regarding trash collection.

§ 129-12. Residential collections. [Added 4-14-1969 by Ord. No. 69-02]

- A. All refuse, trash and garbage shall be placed in containers of not less than 10 nor more than 20 gallons' capacity. Refuse containers shall be provided by the owner or tenant and maintained in a leak-proof and sanitary condition. No trash or garbage shall be placed in paper or cardboard containers. Containers shall be made of metal or of a type approved by the Mayor and Council and shall have tight-fitting lids. No container shall be too heavy to be manageable by one person.
- B. Trash and garbage containers shall be placed at the curb for collection no earlier than darkness of the day before collection and must be removed to the rear of properties and out of public view by darkness on the day of collection.
- C. Commercial establishments and multifamily residences of more than three units shall be exempt from Subsections A and B.
- D. Public trash receptacles shall be used exclusively for street litter.

§ 129-13. Violations and penalties. [Amended 2-14-1994 by Ord. No. 94-01]

Violations of the provisions in this article shall constitute a municipal infraction with a fine of \$400.

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NEW PAVILION FOR PARK COMPLETED

The work for the new pavilion in Goodwin Park has been completed. Funding for the project was obtained from the Department of Natural Resources Program Open Space Grant. The grant is available to make improvements to parks and recreational areas. The City has been able to use previous funding to repave the basketball and tennis courts as well as several of the pathways that were in need of repair. The City will continue to seek funding to make further improvements to the park to enhance its usability for residents. Those interested in renting the park can contact City Hall at 301-336-2600 for further information.

Before





After

THE SEAT PLEASANT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT WELCOMES YOU

By Philip Martin, Public Relations and Outreach



Do you know what sits at 6305 Addison Road? That red brick building is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and staffed with dedicated volunteers who come from all over the country for an opportunity to serve at one of the best firehouses in the County? You've got it, the Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Company!

The Seat Pleasant Volunteers responds to over 7000 calls for service and 150 fires a year. The station operates two fire suppression units, Engines 82 and 83, and a heavy rescue squad, to provide fire protection, and search and rescue operations

The Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Company is a member of the community just like YOU! Don't hesitate to stop by so you can get to them and in turn they get to meet not only their neighbors, but also the people we serve.

Interested in volunteering, renting the banquet hall or for more information about the Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Company, visit www.SeatPleasantFire.com, call 301-336-2331, or stop by the fire house. Be safe and well!

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

Are you looking to make a difference in your community? Do you want to share your valuable time and talents with others? Seat Pleasant is looking for you! The City is working to create a database of volunteers to help with projects and activities with the City. If you are interested, please call Darlinda Sanders in the Community Services Department at 301-336-2600 and provide your information.

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YOU LIGHT UP MY LIFE

A Word from the Seat Pleasant Citizen's Police Advisory Committee

Do you know that crime tends to decline in neighborhoods that are well lit? Studies show that houses with lights turned on are much less likely to be burglarized. Break ins can happen in any neighborhood, but thieves are more likely to bypass a well-lit home and go to the darker house. After all, they don't want to be seen or recognized by you or anyone else when they're doing wrong! Turning on your porch light is a very simple way to light up your neighborhood. Likewise, street lights help too. If you see a street light that is out on your block, call 1-877-737-2662 or it can be reported online at www.pepco.com.

Let's keep Seat Pleasant safe and help reduce our fear of going out at night. Try to avoid dark and deserted places, stay in better lighted areas, and watch out for your neighbors. Light up your street and keep your porch light on at night – it benefits the whole block.

If you need any information or want us to discuss a matter with the Seat Pleasant Police Department or Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department, please email us at cpac.seatpleasant@live.com. Keep safe!

HEALTHY SNACKS FOR KIDS AND ADULTS

By Sharon Desmond

Co-Chairperson Seat Pleasant University of Maryland Partnership

We hear so much about excess weight and obesity these days that some of us may think we can never snack again. Don't worry, that is not the case, but we do need to be smarter about the snacks we offer to our children and ourselves. When kids and adults are busy learning, working and playing, they get hungry and may need a snack between meals. This is fine as long as the portion size is reasonable and the food we eat (or give our kids) is "nutrient-rich" rather than full of "empty-calories." Empty calorie foods are those that have lots of calories (for example, chips, cake, candy and soda) but very few nutrients (complex carbohydrates, protein, vitamins and minerals).

Examples of healthy snacks that kids enjoy include: celery sticks with peanut butter and raisins (ants on a log), fresh fruit with low-fat yogurt, baked tortilla chips and salsa, or unsalted pretzels or air-popped popcorn. We are all busy and on-the-go these days, but it is simple to put dried fruit and nuts or fresh veggies or low-fat cheese sticks in baggies to take with you (and



don't forget the water!). Healthy snacks can prevent a stop at McDonalds and they are much healthier and cheaper! If you and your kids are home and snacking, make sure everyone eats at the table rather than in front of the TV. When we eat while we are doing something else (like watching TV), we often engage in "mindless eating" where we don't realize how much we are eating and don't really enjoy or appreciate the flavor of the food. It's also a great time for everyone in the family to talk together!

City of Seat Pleasant
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6301 Addison Road
Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743



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FLU CLINIC AND HEALTH EDUCATION WORKSHOP COMING SOON

On Thursday, October 7th, the Department of Aging will conduct a Flu Clinic and Education Workshop. The event will be held between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Department of Social Services located at 6420 Allentown Road in Camp Springs, Maryland. Lunch is provided. For more information or to register call 301-265-8475. Call-A-Bus Transportation will be provided, as a courtesy, on a first come first serve basis as only 14 slots are available. To sign up for transportation call 301-336-2600.

NOTICE TO SEAT PLEASANT SENIORS

If you are a senior citizen in Seat Pleasant we want to hear from you. The City of Seat Pleasant is creating a database of its senior citizens in an effort to keep them better informed about activities and events going on in the City. Please call Darlinda Sanders in the Community Services Department in City Hall at 301-336-2600 and leave your contact information.

